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THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION

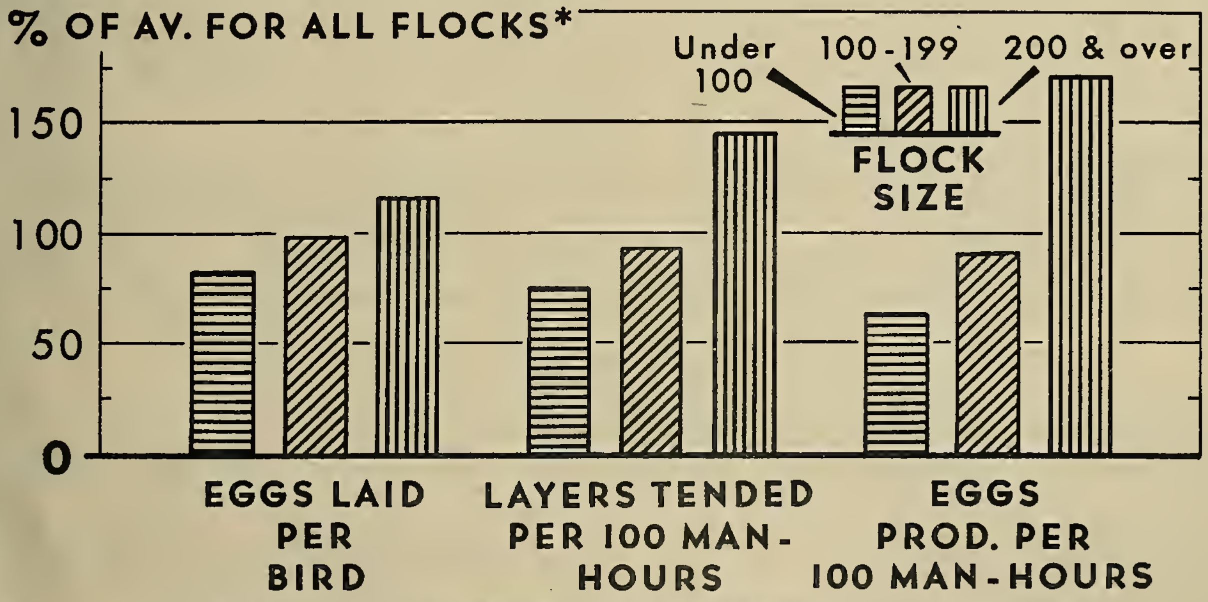
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PES-164 MAR.-APR 1953

Measures of

EGG PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY

By Flock Size, Indiana, 1950



ADAPTED FROM "LABOR AND POWER USED FOR FARM ENTERPRISES: INDIANA, 1950", USDA, BAE.
** IN STATEWIDE SAMPLE.*

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 49076-XX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Small laying flocks do not provide as efficient use of labor as do larger flocks. Further, because small side-line enterprises do not yield enough income to merit the specialized attention to feeding, disease control, and management which is justified by larger flocks, they often are inefficient in other factors as well. For these reasons, many midwestern poultry advisors are recommending that farmers have either only a small flock of layers to provide their families' needs for eggs and chicken, or else to have a flock of at least 400 to 500 layers which can be profitably managed on a commercial basis.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Item	Unit	Month or date	Average 1942-51	1952	1953	Month or date	Average 1942-51	1952	1953	Comments on current situation
					EGGS					
Farm production	Mil. doz.	Jan.	370.7	446.8	453.4	Feb.	407.1	472.3	444.0	28-day month a factor in the January-February comparisons of production and disappearance
Average number of layers on farms	Millions	Jan.	398.3	384.4	375.9	Feb.	391.0	375.3	364.2	
Monthly egg production per layer	Eggs	Jan.	11.2	14.0	14.5	Feb.	12.5	15.1	14.6	
Apparent civilian per capita disappearance	Eggs	Jan.	32.2	37.0	37.1	Feb.	31.5	35.6	34.0	
Frozen egg production	Mil. lb.	Jan.	10.4	17.9	18.1	Feb.	30.1	38.1	38.4	Deterred by high prices for breaking stock
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	Jan.	8.0	1.1	0.4	Feb.	11.3	1.9	1.2	
Price received by farmers	Ct.per doz.	Feb.	35.8	34.7	42.0	Mar.	35.4	34.0	44.7	
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	Feb.	94	79	103	Mar.	98	77	109	
Retail price (BAE)	Ct.per doz.	Feb.	49.4	53.0	1/	Mar.	49.6	51.5	1/	
Egg-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Feb.	11.4	8.1	10.6	Mar.	11.0	8.0	11.3	In the past, comparable increases over previous year have induced increases in chickens raised
Stocks:										
Shell	Thous.cases	Feb. 1	304	238	120	Mar. 1	722	942	248	
Frozen	Mil. lb.	Feb. 1	78.9	53.1	35.0	Mar. 1	79.1	60.6	42.1	
Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries	Millions	Jan.	63.6	121.9	127.3	Feb.	125.8	190.4	172.9	More recent, but unofficial, reports suggest current activity exceeds 1952
Hens and pullets of laying age on farms	Millions	Feb. 1		380.8	370.5	Mar. 1	---	369.7	357.9	
Farm price of poultry ration	Dol.per cwt	Feb.	3.22	4.25	3.96	Mar.	3.29	4.24	3.97	
					POULTRY					
Price received by farmers for chickens, live										
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	Feb.	27.4	29.3	27.9	Mar.	29.2	28.0	28.2	Price effects of larger beef supplies offset by less pork?
Farm chickens	Ct. per lb.	Feb.	24.8	24.8	24.0	Mar.	25.8	24.8	24.3	
All chickens	Ct. per lb.	Feb.	26.1	27.7	26.6	Mar.	27.5	27.1	27.5	
Price received by farmers for all chickens as a percentage of parity	Percent	Feb.	106	90	86	Mar.	110	81	89	
Retail price of chickens, dressed (BAE)	Ct. per lb.	Feb.	46.3	54.1	1/	Mar.	46.8	53.1	1/	
Price received by farmers for turkeys, live	Ct. per lb.	Feb.	32.4	36.1	33.3	Mar.	32.1	34.5	33.6	
Stocks:										
Poultry, excluding turkeys	Mil. lb.	Feb. 1	162.1	183.6	118.2	Mar. 1	141.5	163.9	100.0	
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	Feb. 1	88.1	116.4	142.9	Mar. 1	80.8	106.5	117.0	On basis of 35-city reports, March outmovement about equaled February
Chicken-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Feb.	8.3	6.5	6.7	Mar.	8.6	6.4	6.9	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Feb.	10.2	8.5	8.4	Mar.	9.9	8.1	8.5	
Average weekly placement of chicks in 11 broiler areas	Millions	Feb.	---	14.2	12.4	Mar.	---	14.4	14.0	At end of March, weekly placements were exceeding corresponding 1952

1/ Latest available data are for December 1952, and were reported in the Jan.-Feb. 1953 Poultry and Egg Situation.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board April 6, 1953

SUMMARY

Egg production, near its season peak, is running below a year earlier, roughly in proportion to the 3 percent reduction in the number of layers on farms March 1. The reduced supplies, continued good demand for eggs for immediate consumption, and a small early-season accumulation of frozen egg, have held prices roughly 10 cents per dozen above a year earlier. After mid-year, both egg production and egg prices are likely to be much nearer to year-ago levels.

With the rise in egg prices and the reduction in the price of poultry ration, egg-feed price ratios in January, February, and March were 19, 31, and 41 percent higher than in the same months of 1952. In past hatching seasons, such increases in the egg-feed price ratio have been followed by some increase in the number of chickens raised for laying flock replacement.

Turkey hatchings through March were reduced from a year earlier. However, the sharp cuts in early-season operations do not necessarily indicate similar cuts for the year as a whole. A Turkey Industry Conference held in Washington on March 5 and 6 recommended a 12 to 15 percent cut from 1952 in the production of heavy turkeys.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Egg Prices to Mid-Summer to Continue Higher than in 1952

Egg prices through March this year continued sharply higher than during the same period in 1952, with the prospect that they will continue so through the first half of this year. In the summer and fall, however, the seasonal price rise is likely to be less pronounced than in 1952, and prices probably will be much closer to a year earlier than they have been so far.

Main reasons for the relatively high current level of egg prices are (a) the reduction in egg production from last year, (b) the small amount stored so far relative to the "requirements" for frozen and stored shell eggs, and (c) the continued high level of demand.

Table 1.- Eggs: Monthly commercial supply from farm production, and average prices, January 1951 to date 1/

Year and month	Egg production on farms	Net commercial cold storage movements, shell and frozen equivalent		Eggs for hatching	Government purchases for surplus removal 2/	Effective supply in commercial channels (including U.S. Armed Forces)	U.S. average farm price, per dozen	U. S. average retail price, (BAE) per dozen
		Out	In					
	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	Cents	Cents
1951								
Jan.	14,083	381		672		13,792	42.6	61.4
Feb.	14,369		108	1,127		13,134	41.4	57.8
Mar.	17,100		892	1,322		14,886	43.7	63.7
Apr.	16,778		1,810	1,129		13,839	43.2	62.1
May	16,336		2,371	595		13,370	45.2	64.5
June	14,056		1,007	437		12,612	44.7	65.5
July	12,619	105		371		12,353	46.6	67.3
Aug.	11,422	938		320		12,040	49.6	71.9
Sept.	10,953	1,214		346		11,821	55.0	75.9
Oct.	11,778	1,232		348		12,662	55.6	78.8
Nov.	12,069	1,015		363		12,721	56.5	78.0
Dec.	13,314	760		508		13,566	51.1	69.6
1952								
Jan.	15,019	210		793		14,436	40.5	58.8
Feb.	15,875		886	1,219		13,770	34.7	53.0
Mar.	17,892		1,148	1,208		15,536	34.0	51.5
Apr.	17,200		1,238	900		15,062	35.2	53.0
May	16,619		1,797	486		14,336	34.2	52.2
June	13,978		791	354		12,833	35.7	54.0
July	12,397	659		327		12,729	43.3	66.3
Aug.	11,542	996		333		12,205	48.2	68.8
Sept.	11,411	934		360	125	11,860	48.7	69.5
Oct.	12,228	1,474		366	83	13,253	50.3	74.2
Nov.	12,528	1,152		395	17	13,268	51.9	72.3
Dec.	14,064	810		530	1	14,343	46.6	64.2
1953								
Jan.	15,114	429		720		14,823	45.8	
Feb.	14,800		293	3/1,170		13,337	42.0	
Mar.							44.7	

1/ Corresponding data for prior months are given in The Poultry and Egg Situation, June 1951, table 5, page 12 and Mar.-Apr. 1952, table 1, page 5.

2/ Surplus removal purchases for 1952 entered according to month of scheduled delivery.

3/ Estimated on basis of eggs in incubators March 1.

Egg Production Below Last Year

Egg production on farms for the next few months will continue below last year, in line with the 3 percent reduction from last year in the number of layers on hand March 1. Almost until mid-year, changes from last year in the rate of lay per bird are unlikely to be large enough to substantially affect the total egg output, and supplies will be below the 1952 level.

Although egg supplies are smaller than in 1952, they are near the high point of this year, and prices of fresh eggs for the 4 or 5 months after June are virtually certain to be higher than in the months preceding. These expectations are based on normal seasonal developments that have occurred in every past year.

Table 2.- Layers on farms March 1 as a percentage of potential layers on farms January 1, by regions, 1949-53

Region	March 1 layers as a percentage of January 1 potential layers				
	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
N. Atlantic	88	86	88	87	88
E. N. Central	90	90	91	89	89
W. N. Central	92	90	91	92	92
S. Atlantic	84	85	84	84	84
S. Central	84	84	87	86	84
Western	91	87	87	86	87
United States	89	87	89	88	88

Shell Eggs in Storage Fewer than Last Year

Storage stocks of shell eggs this year are likely to be considerably below the July 1, 1952, holdings of 3.4 million cases. This prospect is based mainly on the continuing trend toward a seasonal leveling-out of egg production on farms, and on the current level of egg prices, which in March, at 44.7 cents (U. S. average farm price) was more than 10 cents per dozen higher than a year earlier. With production of fresh eggs in the fall likely to be closer to the level of a year ago than this spring, the seasonal price rise is expected to be smaller this year than last. Consequently, the opportunities for profit from shell egg storage will be narrowed.

Although a smaller seasonal egg price rise than last year is in prospect, a nearly average relationship has existed in the last month or two between fresh egg prices and egg futures contracts in Chicago. With both September and October contracts holding near 51 and 50 cents per dozen respectively in late March, the futures were on most days from 3 to 5 cents above the lowest-quoted packs of Extras in the spot markets. The course of egg future prices for the 1952 deliveries is shown in table 4.

Table 3.- Shell and frozen eggs in refrigerated storage,
March 1953, with comparisons

Date	Shell eggs			Frozen eggs			Shell and frozen combined 1/		
	1951	1952	1953	1951	1952	1953	1951	1952	1953
	Thous. cases	Thous. cases	Thous. cases	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Thous. cases	Thous. cases	Thous. cases
				Total U. S. stocks					
January 1	34	141	153	47	67	50	1,263	1,886	1,456
February 1	75	238	120	31	53	35	884	1,616	1,029
March 1	159	942	248	33	61	42	1,009	2,515	1,342
April 1	309	1,596		62	84		1,927	3,785	
May 1	973	2,184		109	111		3,811	5,072	
June 1	2,083	3,184		163	146		6,308	6,973	
July 1	2,427	3,357		190	166		7,362	7,680	
August 1	2,270	2,728		191	163		7,226	6,971	
September 1	1,615	2,169		176	144		6,194	5,918	
October 1	958	1,709		151	124		4,888	4,921	
November 1	527	1,000		122	95		3,685	3,476	
December 1	230	393		95	72		2,701	2,275	
				Stocks in 35 principal cities 2/					
March 21	135	1,019	176	25	44	32	796	2,161	999
March 28	175	1,107	201	30	48	34	948	2,352	1,079
April 4	249	1,189	222	36	51	38	1,190	2,518	1,201
April 11	337	1,243		41	56		1,413	2,694	

1/ Frozen egg converted at 38.5 pounds, equivalent to 1 case.
2/ Given dates are for 1953; for other years, corresponding Saturdays.

Production of Liquid and Frozen Egg Lags

Production and storage of liquid, frozen, and dried egg are influenced by somewhat different factors than those affecting storage of shell eggs. Net costs of storage for frozen egg are considerably lower than for shell eggs. This is partly because normally there is no grade loss in the holding of frozen egg as there is for shell. In the winter, spring-packed frozen egg may even command a premium over the currently-produced commodity. As a result, storage costs for frozen egg are offset by a much smaller seasonal price rise than that which is necessary to justify the storage of shell eggs.

Ordinarily, production of the processed egg products during each spring's flush season is large enough so that the price during the out-of-storage season is usually related to spring-time production cost plus accumulated storage charges. Thus frozen egg prices during the late summer and fall do not reflect current production costs to any great extent. The price for stored shell eggs, on the other hand, usually is based on the current price for fresh eggs minus a discount to offset the real or presumed quality changes that occurred during storage.

The above situation applies to frozen egg prices when supplies are liberal, as is usually the case. But when supplies are so short as to drive prices above accustomed levels, it is more difficult to foresee the extent to which the price might rise.

The processed eggs which are used in pastries, noodles, salad dressings, and the dry cake mixes which have recently become popular, are among the most expensive ingredients in those end-products. Manufacturers have probably explored most of the opportunities for economies in the use of eggs in those products, and they can reduce the amount of eggs used only by reducing the quantity or quality of the output. However, eggs make up only a relatively small proportion of the total retail cost of these end-products. A rise in egg prices, therefore, has relatively little effect on the retail prices and thus on the quantity taken by consumers. For these reasons, the quantity of egg products demanded may not decline in proportion to a rise in price.

Table 4.- Egg futures contracts, Chicago Mercantile Exchange: Monthly highs, cents per dozen, 1952, and 1953 contracts to date

Highest daily closing price (per dozen) during the month of:	Contract						
	Sept. 1952	Oct. 1952	Nov. 1952	Dec. 1952	Jan. 1953	Sept. 1953	Oct. 1953
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1951							
October	45.25						
November	46.70	46.50					
December	46.25	46.25					
1952							
January	45.95	45.90					
February	43.90	44.15					
March	43.90	44.00					
April	43.65	43.80	43.85				
May	43.50	43.95	44.10				
June	45.45	46.25	46.85				
July	50.05	50.40	50.65	49.00			
August	49.45	50.30	50.70	49.00			
September	45.95	47.00	47.85	46.00			
October		43.90	44.35	44.20	39.75	45.05	
November			44.65	45.05	42.05B	44.50	
December				47.55	43.00	45.75	45.75
1953							
January					46.20	47.55	47.60
February						49.65	49.65
March						52.75	51.75

An individual supplier of processed egg, of course, may find his sales fluctuating considerably with changes in prices. For the products of the egg-breaking industry as a whole, however, the quantity of processed egg products sold is not likely to be sharply reduced if prices increase from accustomed levels.

Unless production (breaking) is up sharply from rates earlier in the season, and continues at an accelerated rate until mid-year, the season peak storage stocks will be lower than in 1952. With users unlikely to reduce their takings proportionately, stocks will be inadequate and considerable out-of-season egg breaking is likely. In that case, the cost of replacement from out-of-season production will be a strong influence on prices for frozen egg. This indicates that prices in the next 6 or 8 months may rise by considerably more than accumulated storage charges, if springtime accumulations of frozen (and dried) egg in storage do not at least equal those of a year ago.

Table 5.- January 1 stocks of frozen egg, and liquid egg production, 1951 to date

Item	1951	1952	1953
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
January 1 stocks of frozen egg	47	67	50
Production of liquid egg			
January	23	23	21
February	35	48	45
March	77	63	
April	84	64	
May	87	71	
June	50	48	
July	23	22	
August-December total	31	43	
Annual total	409	382	

Economic Factors Suggest Change from January Intentions for Fewer Chickens

The hatchery report released March 16 did not indicate a substantial departure from farmers' February intentions to raise 4 percent fewer chickens than in 1952 for laying flock replacement. However, if the February intentions are carried through this would be the first time since 1925, when records first became available, that an increase in the egg-feed price ratio failed to induce an increase in the number of chickens raised.

Egg-feed price ratios in January, February, and March were 19, 31, and 41 percent respectively above a year earlier. The ratios in the remaining months of the hatching season are likely to show similar gains over a year earlier. As a result, farmers are likely to reconsider their plans to reduce chick numbers. The usual close relationship between the weighted springtime egg-feed price ratio and the number of chickens raised is illustrated below.

EGG-FEED PRICE RATIO AND CHICKENS RAISED

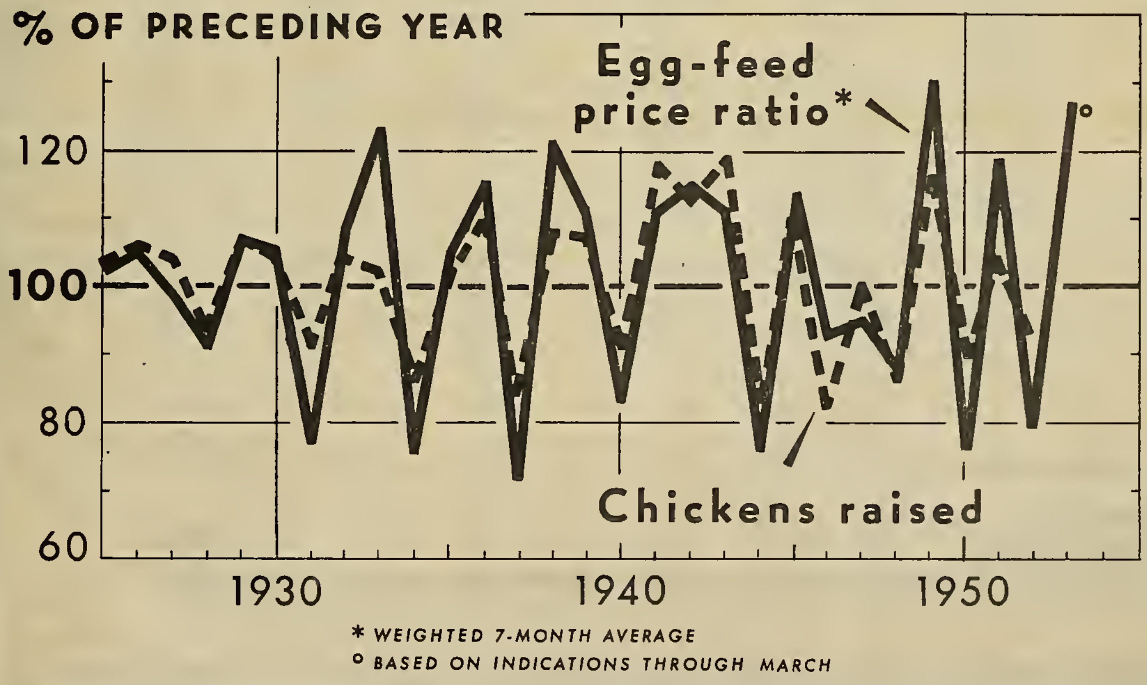


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Table 6.- Egg-feed price ratio, chickens raised, and pullets on farms, January 1, United States, 1925 to date

Year	Egg-feed price ratio (weighted average*)	Chickens raised	Pullets on farms January 1 following	Percentage of preceding year			
				Intentions to raise chickens	Egg-feed price ratio*	Chickens raised	Pullets on farms January 1 following
	Pounds	Millions	Millions	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1925	12.9	679			102	103	
1926	13.5	718			105	106	
1927	13.4	750			99	104	
1928	12.2	700			91	93	
1929	13.1	751			107	107	
1930	13.8	777	244		105	104	
1931	10.6	709	230		77	91	94
1932	11.6	736	237		109	104	103
1933	14.3	750	238		123	102	100
1934	10.9	644	212		76	86	89
1935	11.4	658	226		105	102	107
1936	13.1	715	249		115	109	110
1937	9.4	601	215		72	84	86
1938	11.4	651	242		121	108	113
1939	12.6	697	254		111	107	105
1940	10.4	634	240	96	83	91	94
1941	11.5	745	278	109	111	118	116
1942	13.2	844	319	112	115	113	115
1943	14.7	1,001	350	116	111	119	110
1944	11.2	832	301	83	76	83	86
1945	12.8	1/890	322	96	114	107	107
1946	11.9	1/738	281	86	93	83	87
1947	11.3	1/719	278	94	95	97	99
1948	9.8	1/615	258	80	87	86	93
1949	12.7	1/705	287	107	130	115	111
1950	9.6	1/635	264	88	76	90	92
1951	11.4	1/663	276	96	119	104	105
1952	9.0(9.3)	2/617	255	90	79	93	92
1953	3/(11.2)			96			

1/ Revised.
2/ Preliminary.
3/ For 1953, November through March; comparable 1952 in parentheses.

* Weights are as follows: Preceding November, 1; preceding December, 2; January, 3; February, 4; March, 5; April, 3; May, 1.

Past experience has been that the percentage change from one year to the next in chickens raised has averaged about half the percentage change in the weighted egg-feed price ratio. This year the change in the ratio is so extreme that a fully corresponding change in the number of chickens raised is unlikely. However, if the increase were to be only one-third or half of that ordinarily expected to follow egg-feed ratios as favorable as those of recent months, the resulting number of pullets available for egg production in the spring of 1954 would produce considerably more eggs than were available this spring.

Since other factors besides supply influence egg prices, it is too early to estimate what egg prices might be a year from now. However, springtime prices have in the past been sensitive to small changes in supply, on account of the delicate balance usually existing at that season when consumer channels are liberally supplied, and the storage demand responds to small price changes.

The report of hatchery production for February showed a 9 percent decline in output from February 1952. About a third of this decline is accounted for by the shorter month this year than in 1952, a leap year. The remaining 5 or 6 percent of this difference between 1952 and 1953 chick production may not have extended to chick sales, since in February 1952 there were reported to have been many unsold chicks which hatcherymen had to destroy. Demand in February 1953 was reported to be good.

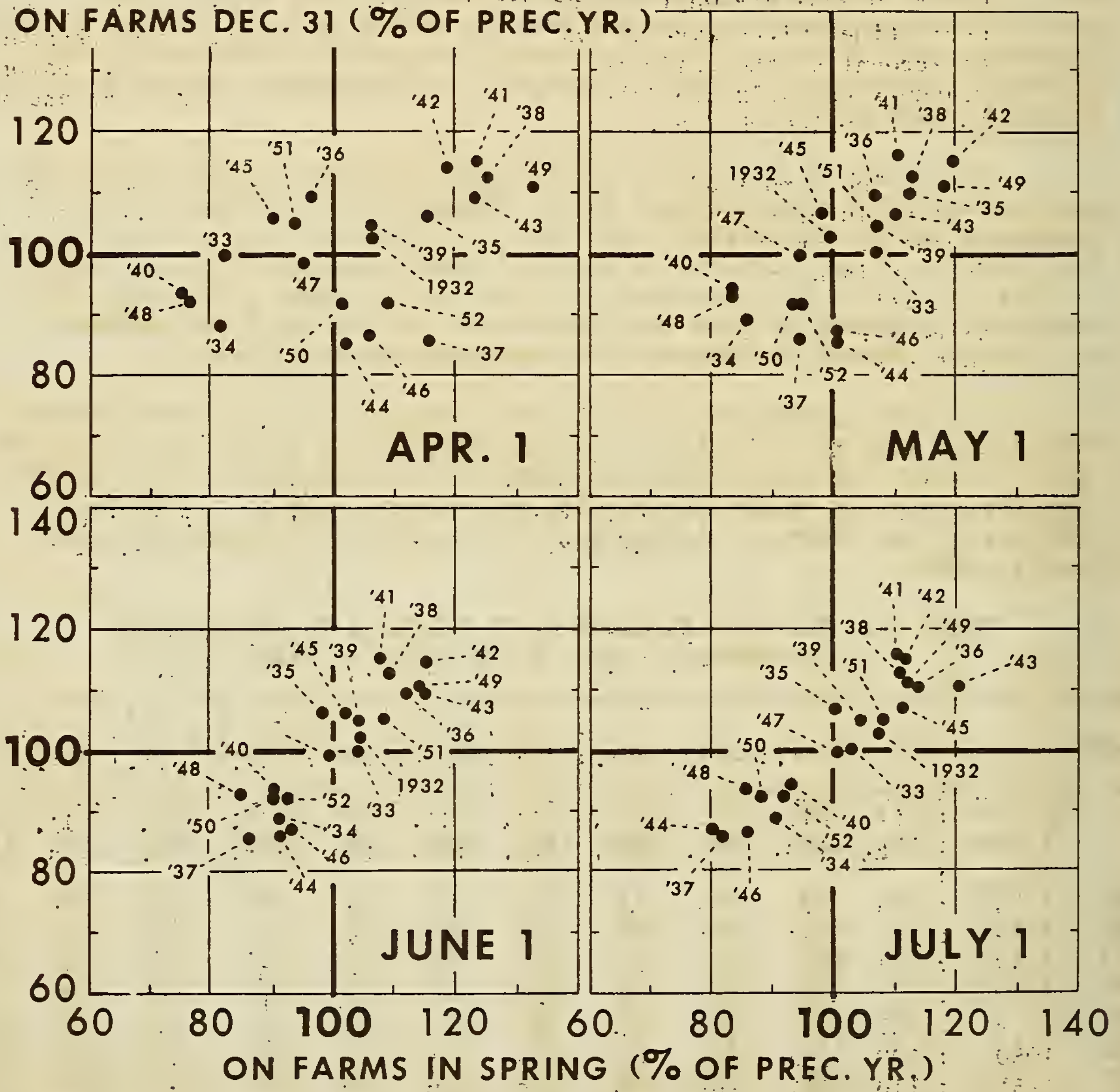
The next indication of the trend in numbers of replacement chicks will be the estimate of chicks and young chickens on farms April 1, in the April 10 report of Crop Production. Table 7 and the accompanying chart show the extent to which this report, and others later in the season, indicate of the number of laying pullets finally to be housed from the year's hatch.

Table 6a.- Turkeys: First-of-month holdings in refrigerated warehouses, total U. S., 1945 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.
1945	73	74	63	46	33	29	27	21	18	27	43	78
1946	108	135	135	124	107	97	79	63	55	45	84	117
1947	128	140	126	109	95	86	72	59	45	39	65	86
1948	83	83	70	55	41	33	27	19	13	15	34	47
1949	51	55	51	44	36	33	29	21	21	35	76	107
1950	127	138	129	113	93	77	64	47	37	43	77	108
1951	110	117	101	80	60	48	39	30	25	42	83	109
1952	107	116	107	93	72	63	56	46	44	71	142	158
1953	147	143	117									

YOUNG CHICKENS ON FARMS IN THE SPRING, AND NUMBERS OF PULLETS FOR LAYING PURPOSES AT END OF YEAR, 1932-52

Percentages of Preceding Year



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Downward Adjustment Desirable for Size of 1953 Turkey Crop

Price trends since the new year have been different for small turkeys and large ones. Beltsville Small Whites, typical of the small turkeys, have sold at prices well above the 1952 average. In the East, the price outlook for producers of small turkeys for the next few months is good, since egg settings and hatchings have been sharply reduced in the Shenandoah Valley, a principal producing area. Growers' January intentions were to grow 23 percent fewer birds of this type in 1953 than in 1952.

Current prices for toms of the heavy breeds are slightly below the levels of early January. Until after mid-year, major supplies of these birds will come from storage stocks, rather than from current slaughter as is the case for small birds. Although smaller than 4 months ago, these stocks are quite large. Growers' January intentions were to cut the 1953 output of this class of turkey by only 3 percent. The reduction would be only half as large as the quantity bought by the Department of Agriculture from the 1952 crop for surplus removal.

Table 7.- Springtime numbers of young chickens on farms and numbers of pullets for laying purposes at end of year, 1931 to date

Year	Chicks and young chickens on farms								Pullets on farms December 31	
	Numbers, first of month				As a percentage of preceding year					
	April	May	June	July	April	May	June	July	Number	Percentage of preceding year
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Mil.	Pct.
1931	140	333	502	516					230	
1932	149	330	520	550	106	99	104	107	237	103
1933	122	350	542	559	82	106	104	102	238	100
1934	99	298	491	503	81	85	91	90	212	89
1935	114	325	481	504	115	109	98	100	226	107
1936	110	345	541	570	96	106	112	113	249	110
1937	126	324	465	464	115	94	86	81	215	86
1938	158	364	509	513	125	112	109	111	242	113
1939	167	387	531	534	106	106	104	104	254	105
1940	126	323	477	499	75	83	90	93	240	94
1941	155	354	513	550	123	110	108	110	278	116
1942	185	420	589	611	119	119	115	111	319	115
1943	227	472	679	732	123	112	115	120	350	110
1944	231	471	616	595	102	100	91	81	301	86
1945	206	460	625	660	89	98	101	111	322	107
1946	218	460	575	559	106	100	92	85	281	87
1947	206	429	563	557	94	93	98	100	278	99
1948	155	353	476	479	75	82	85	86	258	93
1949	203	409	537	533	131	116	113	111	287	111
1950	216	384	483	470	101	94	90	88	264	92
1951	201	406	523	508	93	106	108	108	276	105
1952	219	384	489	467	109	95	93	92	255	92

On December 1, 1952, holdings of frozen turkey were record large (table 6a), even after allowing for the fact that they included a considerable number of birds intended for later delivery to the Department of Agriculture. Since that date they have declined steadily, contrary to the usual seasonal increase which in previous years had brought stocks to the season peak about February 1. On March 1, 1953, the total holdings were 117 million pounds; during the month they declined further. By April 1 turkeys owned by USDA or intended for delivery to USDA were no longer a significant part of the storage holdings.

The amount of the month-to-month decline in turkey storage holdings this spring is significant because if large holdings remain when substantial marketings begin from the 1953 crop, they will be a price-depressing influence. An Advisory Committee which met in Washington on March 5 and 6 recommended that the 1953 production of heavy turkeys be reduced 12 to 15 percent from the record-high levels of 1952. 1/

The extent of the likely downward trend in the 1953 production of large turkeys is not yet clear. The monthly report of hatchery production shows the percentage change in operations from last year for a matched sample of hatcheries. These data, with 1952 comparisons, are:

Year and month to which report applies	Percentage change from a year earlier			
	Poult output		Turkey eggs in incubators at beginning of given month	Turkeys raised for the year
	In previous month	Cumulative for season		
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1953				
March	-34		-19	
1952				+13
March	58		30	
April	27	34	40	
May	12	22	10	
June	6	16	- 2	
July	0	13	12	
1951				19
March	10		16	
April	5	6	0	
May	6	6	16	
June	7	6	48	
July	32	10	38	

The table indicates that early-season hatchery output data are an inadequate basis for predicting full-season changes in turkey output. The table is based on reports which do not segregate poults of the large and small breeds.

1/ USDA press release 553, March 6, 1953.

In order to give the turkey industry a better basis for judging its position, and to provide information early enough for the industry to make appropriate adjustments, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is making a special turkey survey this spring. The survey, covering 13 States, will report (a) 1953 poult production, cumulative through April, as a percentage of corresponding 1952, (b) poult production in the last week of April 1953 as a percentage of corresponding 1952, and (c) eggs in incubators May 1. Since the incubation period for turkeys is 28 days, a May 1 report on numbers of eggs in incubators will indicate production through late May.

The data are to be separate for light-breed turkeys and heavy-breed turkeys. The 13 States, chosen as representative of the heavy-producing sections in various regions of the country, are New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Texas, California, Oregon, and Washington.

Table 8.- Turkeys: Prices per pound for vaious types, January 1953 to date

Item	Date 1/						
	Jan. 2	Jan. 15	Feb. 2	Feb. 16	Mar. 2	Mar. 16	Apr. 1
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
U. S. average received by farmers at mid-month (live)		33.6		33.3		33.6	
Small turkeys:							
Shenandoah Valley, Va. and W. Va., at farm, live	42	42	40½	41½-42	42-43	42-43	
San Joaquin Valley, Calif., at ranch, live	33-34	34½	---	---	---	---	
New York City,							
New York dressed 2/	53½-54	53-54	52½-53	53½-54	55½-56	54½-55	51-52
Eviscerated 3/	63-65	64-65	64-66	64-67	64-67	64-67	64-68
Large turkeys-toms							
San Joaquin Valley, Calif., at ranch, live	28½-29½	28½-30	---	---	---	---	
New York City,							
New York dressed							
under 20 pounds	40½-41½	40½-41	40½-41½	40½-41½	40½-41	40½-41	40½-41
26 pounds and up	43-44	44½-45	45½-46	45½-46	44½-45½	43½-44½	43-44
Eviscerated							
under 20 pounds	53-56	52-54	52-54	52-54	51-53	50-53	50-52
24 pounds and up	53-55	53-56	55-56½	54-56½	53-55	53-55	52-55

1/ Or first available quotation thereafter. 2/ Ice packed. 3/ Eviscerated (ready-to cook).

Late April Broilers to Compete with Byproduct Cockerels

Reported February and March placements of broilers in specialized areas were short of the records set in those months in 1952, and the present outlook does not suggest a repetition of the marketing gluts which occurred last May. However, recent settings of eggs in incubators in broiler areas have been rising, and early April placements are likely to be higher than in 1952.

Broiler chicks placed in early April will be ready for marketing before most byproduct cockerels reared with pullet replacements are sold. But later broiler placements will have to sell in competition with byproduct cockerels.

Table 9.- Broilers and fryers: f.o.b. farm prices, per pound, live, in selected areas, selected dates, November 14, 1952 to date

Area	Weight or class	1952		1953				
		Nov. 14	Dec. 15	Jan. 15	Feb. 16	Mar. 2	Mar. 16	Apr. 1
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Del-Mar-Va	Under 3 lbs.	33½-35	27¼-28	28	27½-28	27-27½	26-26½	26½-27
Boston area	3½-4½ lbs.	31-35	25-28	25-27	24-30	25-27	23-24	24-26
Shenandoah Valley	Broilers and fryers	33-34	28	26-27	27	27	26-27	26½-28½
North Georgia	Under 3½ lbs.	30-31½	26½-29	26-28	26-27	27-28	27	27½-28½
Arkansas	All weights	32	30	26	26	25-26	27-28	27-28
Texas	Broilers or fryers	31-32	31-32	26-27	26	26-28	29-30	28-29
San Joaquin Valley	Fryers	29-31	28-29	31-33	28-30	28-30	29-31	29-30
Iowa 1/	2½ lbs. and up	30-31	27-28	26-28	26	27	27-28	28
U.S. average farm price 2/		31.3	29.6	28.2	27.9		28.2	
		Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Average weekly chick placements 3/		9.0	9.6	10.8	11.6	11.7	12.0	12.1

1/ Friday of given week.
2/ At mid-month.
3/ 9-12 weeks previous in 11 specialized areas.

Price Control Regulations End

Egg price controls administered by the Office of Price Stabilization were terminated on February 12, 1953. Since egg prices were below parity levels except during months when egg prices were seasonally lower than the base prices of the freeze period (December 19, 1950-January 25, 1951), the controls did not directly bear upon farmers' egg prices.

Controls on dressed chickens and turkeys were terminated on the same day. During the control period, the price of chickens had never risen above 93 percent of parity. Turkeys were 98 percent of parity in mid-December 1951, but prices declined after Christmas and no dollars-and-cents price order was issued.

The price of ducks, for which no parity equivalent is computed, was controlled by a separate order, independent of the General Ceiling Price Regulation. The duck order was #79, effective from November 9, 1951 to September 25, 1952.

Table 10.- Broilers: Monthly averages of weekly placements, specified reporting areas, January-March 1953 with comparisons

Area	Average of weekly placements during month								
	1952			1952-1953					
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
E. Connecticut	270	452	360	255	328	309	337	403	1/ 478
Del-Mar-Va.	2,881	3,671	3,162	2,551	2,786	3,280	3,296	2,812	3,072
Shenandoah Valley	751	956	1,023	654	859	867	815	872	1,013
N.Car.-Cent-West	874	984	1,023	626	814	845	970	1,008	1,070
Georgia	2,357	2,792	2,813	2,166	2,093	2,101	2,315	2,554	2,743
Arkansas	1,300	1,344	1,283	818	836	1,046	998	1,007	1,060
Texas	1,447	1,611	1,587	1,211	1,372	1,279	1,238	1,390	1,441
Alabama	477	554	569	460	519	529	513	586	698
Mississippi	621	741	842	593	658	632	709	780	846
Florida	213	229	224	212	226	237	222	236	228
Indiana	717	798	887	626	736	687	719	769	862
Total, 11 areas	11,908	14,132	13,773	10,172	11,227	11,812	12,132	12,417	1/13,511
Oregon	96	121	126	75	86	75	92	101	2/110
W. Connecticut	---	---	119	79	70	72	124	96	---
Maine	---	---	466	537	414	511	544	499	523
California	---	---	---	---	---	---	987	1,188	1,219

1/ Beginning March 1, includes West Connecticut.
2/ Two weeks only.

Table 11.- Turkeys: Average live weight, sales, farm consumption, and value, available data, 1930 to date

Year	Average live weight per turkey sold: Hens	Toms	All	Total sold, live weight	Total consumed on farms, where produced, live weight	Total slaughter, live weight	Weighted annual average price received per pound	Value of: Sales	Sales plus home consumption
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Cents	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.
1930			13.4					46	51
1931			13.6					42	46
1932			13.8					38	41
1933			14.0					36	38
1934			14.1					42	45
1935			14.5					52	56
1936			14.7					62	65
1937			14.8					63	67
1938			14.9					66	69
1939	11.9	17.9	14.9					71	74
1940	12.1	18.1	15.1	509	17	526	15.4	78	81
1941	12.7	19.1	15.9	496	15	511	19.9	98	101
1942	13.0	19.6	16.3	527	13	540	27.5	145	148
1943	12.9	19.5	16.2	490	12	502	32.6	165	164
1944	13.2	20.4	16.8	585	10	595	34.0	199	202
1945	13.5	21.4	17.4	715	12	727	33.7	241	245
1946	13.9	22.2	18.0	740	12	752	36.3	269	273
1947	13.8	22.5	18.1	634	12	646	36.5	232	236
1948	14.0	22.6	18.3	549	11	561	46.8	257	263
1949	14.2	23.3	18.8	748	12	760	35.2	263	267
1950	14.1	23.0	18.6	797	11	808	32.8	262	266
1951 2/	13.6	22.2	17.9	911	11	922	37.4	341	345
1952 3/	14.3	23.8	1/16.7						

1/ Including fryers at an average weight of 7.5 pounds which weight was reported for the first time for 1952.
2/ Revised.
3/ Preliminary.

Table 12.- Turkeys: Numbers on farms January 1, numbers raised, sold, consumed on farms where produced, and total slaughter, available data 1930 to date

Year	Numbers on farms January 1: Breeders	Others	Raised	Sold	Consumed on farms where produced	Total slaughter 1/
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
1930			17,419	15,999	1,704	17,703
1931			18,249	15,746	1,549	17,295
1932			22,333	19,393	1,665	21,058
1933			23,241	21,733	1,623	23,356
1934			21,702	20,615	1,505	22,120
1935			20,821	18,827	1,428	20,255
1936			27,981	25,530	1,485	27,015
1937	3,481	2,877	25,755	24,227	1,425	25,652
1938	3,222	2,874	26,887	24,861	1,291	26,152
1939	3,914	2,575	33,587	29,821	1,297	31,118
1940	4,607	3,962	34,047	33,778	1,170	34,948
1941	3,864	3,329	32,902	31,209	996	32,205
1942	4,003	3,482	32,805	32,420	824	33,244
1943	3,984	2,616	32,309	30,278	747	31,025
1944	4,294	3,135	35,616	34,749	647	35,396
1945	4,606	2,597	42,900	40,999	691	41,690
1946	4,841	3,021	40,142	41,030	699	41,729
1947	3,779	2,100	33,975	34,938	675	35,613
1948	2,537	1,422	31,541	30,017	666	30,683
1949	3,148	1,474	41,266	39,841	676	40,517
1950	3,270	1,854	43,792	42,918	648	43,566
1951 2/	3,301	1,790	52,476	50,853	644	51,497
1952 3/	3,828	1,994	60,446	59,996	715	60,711
1953 3/	3,446	1,893				

1/ Slaughter is the sum of sales and consumption on farms where produced. The difference between raised and slaughtered is accounted for by (a) difference in January 1 inventories, and (b) death losses.
2/ Revised.
3/ Preliminary.

Table 13.- Turkeys: Production, disposition, and related data, by States and divisions, 1952

State and division	Number on farms, January 1, 1952	Number raised	Sales				Consumed on farms where produced		Average price, per pound	Value of		Number on farms, December 31, 1952
			Average live weight per bird		Number	Weight	Number	Weight		Sales	Sales plus home consumption	
			Immature and light weight turkeys 1/	All turkeys								
	Thous.	Thous.	Lb.	Lb.	Thous.	Thous. lb.	Thous.	Thous. lb.	Cents	Thous. dol.	Thous. dol.	Thous.
Maine	18	464	7.0	9.9	465	4,604	1	10	38.7	1,782	1,786	15
New Hampshire	14	154	7.5	17.1	150	2,565	2	34	41.8	1,072	1,086	16
Vermont	14	138	7.5	18.5	136	2,516	3	56	42.7	1,074	1,098	13
Massachusetts	54	653	8.0	14.7	642	9,437	5	74	43.6	4,115	4,147	59
Rhode Island	5	55	8.0	16.3	54	880	1	16	44.7	393	400	5
Connecticut	31	370	8.0	16.4	367	6,019	4	66	44.7	2,690	2,720	29
New York	122	943	9.0	16.9	914	15,447	20	338	43.6	6,735	6,882	128
New Jersey	60	384	8.0	15.6	365	5,694	7	109	45.7	2,602	6,652	70
Pennsylvania	231	2,180	8.0	14.0	2,142	29,988	37	518	41.7	12,505	12,721	224
North Atlantic	549	5,341	7.9	14.7	5,235	77,150	80	1,221	42.7	32,968	33,492	559
Ohio	144	1,878	7.8	17.6	1,830	32,208	24	422	34.6	11,144	11,290	161
Indiana	50	1,795	7.5	16.0	1,782	28,512	14	224	35.0	9,979	10,057	46
Illinois	79	999	6.9	17.0	979	16,643	17	289	36.8	6,125	6,231	79
Michigan	120	1,097	9.6	17.7	1,066	18,868	14	248	35.5	6,698	6,786	132
Wisconsin	57	1,349	8.0	18.2	1,338	24,352	10	182	36.5	8,888	8,954	57
East North Central	450	7,118	7.7	17.2	6,995	120,583	79	1,365	35.5	42,834	43,318	475
Minnesota	281	5,201	7.7	17.8	5,201	92,578	22	392	31.9	29,532	29,657	244
Iowa	161	3,415	7.5	19.5	3,402	66,339	11	214	32.5	21,560	21,630	155
Missouri	319	1,572	6.8	17.8	1,592	28,338	11	196	33.0	9,352	9,417	274
North Dakota	34	526	6.0	16.6	510	8,466	15	249	32.8	2,777	2,859	34
South Dakota	49	370	---	17.2	360	6,192	10	172	32.3	2,000	2,056	48
Nebraska	41	862	7.5	18.3	858	15,701	6	110	33.9	5,323	5,360	37
Kansas	140	742	6.0	17.0	749	12,733	12	204	31.5	4,011	4,075	115
West North Central	1,025	12,688	7.4	18.2	12,672	230,347	87	1,537	32.4	74,555	75,054	907
Delaware	15	360	8.0	14.2	353	5,013	3	43	41.3	2,070	2,088	18
Maryland	72	529	7.0	15.1	518	7,822	15	226	42.2	3,301	3,396	65
Virginia	319	5,762	7.0	10.7	5,834	62,424	25	268	33.8	21,099	21,190	207
West Virginia	66	1,800	8.0	13.0	1,778	23,114	8	104	36.1	8,344	8,382	79
North Carolina	57	1,018	7.4	16.6	999	16,583	14	232	36.4	6,036	6,120	60
South Carolina	103	1,252	7.9	16.8	1,248	20,966	12	202	36.8	7,715	7,789	90
Georgia	51	620	8.0	14.8	595	8,806	20	296	38.1	3,355	3,468	54
Florida	27	181	8.4	15.9	165	2,624	11	175	41.6	1,092	1,165	31
South Atlantic	710	11,522	7.3	12.8	11,490	147,352	108	1,546	36.0	53,012	53,598	604
Kentucky	66	412	8.0	17.3	409	7,076	10	173	34.8	2,462	2,522	56
Tennessee	25	211	7.0	16.3	195	3,178	14	228	32.1	1,020	1,093	26
Alabama	35	308	9.0	14.2	286	4,061	25	355	38.2	1,551	1,687	30
Mississippi	31	131	8.5	13.2	113	1,492	23	304	35.4	528	636	24
Arkansas	43	550	7.4	15.5	532	8,246	12	186	32.3	2,663	2,723	47
Louisiana	21	122	7.0	13.2	104	1,373	17	224	44.8	615	715	21
Oklahoma	89	690	8.0	15.8	685	10,823	17	269	31.0	3,355	3,438	72
Texas	549	3,703	8.0	17.4	3,511	61,091	100	1,740	30.6	18,694	19,226	615
South Central	859	6,127	8.0	16.7	5,835	97,340	218	3,479	31.7	30,888	32,040	891
Montana	16	140	8.8	16.3	131	2,135	12	196	34.7	741	809	13
Idaho	30	183	7.0	17.3	182	3,149	6	104	35.4	1,115	1,152	24
Wyoming	18	150	---	16.7	148	2,472	7	117	33.4	826	865	13
Colorado	60	723	6.0	17.6	721	12,690	13	229	35.9	4,556	4,638	48
New Mexico	12	68	7.0	17.1	60	1,026	8	137	35.0	359	407	11
Arizona	17	98	8.0	17.8	94	1,673	8	142	35.1	587	637	12
Utah	83	1,971	8.0	19.4	1,995	38,703	9	175	30.0	11,611	11,663	48
Nevada	3	27	---	20.0	25	500	3	60	31.4	157	176	2
Washington	144	1,223	7.5	18.8	1,194	22,447	11	207	30.5	6,846	6,909	158
Oregon	352	2,134	6.8	18.6	2,171	40,381	11	205	29.7	11,993	12,054	289
California	1,494	10,933	7.8	18.7	11,048	206,598	55	1,028	31.0	64,045	64,364	1,285
Western	2,229	17,650	7.6	18.7	17,769	331,774	143	2,600	31.0	102,836	103,674	1,903
United States	5,822	60,446	7.5	16.7	59,996	1,004,546	715	11,748	33.6	337,093	341,176	5,339

1/ Including Beltsville Small Whites and other breeds.

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Table 14. - Measures of egg production efficiency by flock size, Indiana, 1950

(Data for cover chart)

Item	Flock size, layers Under 100	100-199	200 and over	Average in sample
(A) Raw data from source 1/				
Number of flocks in sample	15	46	24	
Average number of layers per flock	60	129	272	157
Average annual production per layer, eggs	116	139	165	142
Man-hours:				
Per layer	2.93	2.38	1.51	2.21
Per 100 eggs	2.53	1.71	.92	1.56
(B) Conversions of data				
(1) Productivity per 100 man-hours				
Number of layers tended	34.1	42.0	66.2	45.2
Number of eggs produced	3,953	5,848	10,870	6,410
(2) Conversion of data to percentage of average				
Annual production, eggs per layers	82	98	116	100
Number of layers tended per 100 man-hours	75	93	146	100
Number of eggs produced per 100 man-hours	62	91	170	100

1/ Hecht, Reuben W., "Labor and Power Used for Farm Enterprises, Indiana, 1950", F. M. 100 BAE, USDA, December 1952, p. 30.